



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge

Reducing Conflicts with Coyotes: COYOTE CANS

A noise maker craft for engaging children
“Coyotes belong in nature, but not in our yard”

Increasing populations of coyotes in urban settings can increase the risk of conflicts with humans. A key to reducing conflicts is making sure coyotes keep their inherent fear of humans, and do not become habituated. Scaring coyotes away from homes and yards can help do this.

Coyotes serve an important role in nature by controlling rodent populations, resident geese, and in some cases deer numbers. But they don't belong in our backyards. Letting parents and children know that coyotes belong in the wild and not on our lawns will help protect them, and help coyotes avoid these areas.

Parents: Experts recommend, if you encounter a coyote, to “look big”, “make noise”, “and stare them in the eye.” Wave your arms. If the animal does not retreat, walk slowly. Do not run away, or turn your back on them.

To help make noise, school children can make these coyote cans (noise makers) as part of a lesson regarding coyotes in urban environments.

Method:

Place a half dozen pennies or (nuts/bolts) into an empty aluminum can.

Use duct tape to cover the hole in the can.

Wrap aluminum foil around the can

Apply tape to foil to attach it to the can.



Parents: How to use your coyote can

When confronted by a coyote in the yard:

- *Stand up “look big”*
- *Wave your arms*
- *Shake the coyote can as hard as possible*
- *Yell loudly!*
- *Look the animal in the eye, maintain eye contact*
- *If the coyote does not retreat, walk slowly away, towards the house*
- *Do not turn your back on the animal!*